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# STUDIES

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## 1988-1990 NORTH CAROLINA BIRTH DEFECTS REGISTRY REPORT

by

Annette L. Murray

### ABSTRACT

This report presents data from the 1988-90 North Carolina Birth Defects Registry. Data tables within this report are updated to include the 1989 and 1990 Registry data, and in some cases overlap the 1988 data tabulated in a previous CHES study on birth defects<sup>1</sup>. Descriptive statistics displayed in the tables give the reader perspectives on the prevalence of birth defects in the state. Other sections of this report are written with the intention of orienting readers to the use and interpretation of data on birth malformations. The report also discusses potential problems associated with analyzing rates based on small numbers, and the effects of variations in data collection methods on geographic and temporal patterns of congenital malformations in the state.

Because one of the Healthy Carolinians objectives is to reduce the state's infant death rate to seven deaths per 1,000 live births by the Year 2000<sup>2</sup>, the study of birth defects as they relate to infant deaths has gained importance. From 1988 through 1990 birth defects were the leading cause of infant mortality in North Carolina. In 1990, 19.3 percent of the infant deaths were due to congenital anomalies.